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Title**:** Need to provide funds for infrastructure development in Pondicherry University.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Pondicherry University was established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, as a teaching, research and affiliating University. The University has jurisdiction over three Union Territories viz. Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. The University offers 45 P.G. programmes, 51 M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes and 3 PG Diploma programmes with a tota! student strength of 2,100 through its 9 schools, 31 Departments, 4 Centres and 2 Chairs. It was the first University in India to have offered courses through Choice-Based-Credit-System. The number of Courses and Programmes offered, at present, in the 74 affiliated colleges is 203, besides the 16 courses run through the Community College. Though the University was established with the vision of growing into an institution of excellence in this backward region, it did not receive adequate funding. Even the basic norms prescribed by the statutory bodies like UGC and AICTE etc. for class rooms and laboratories could not be met by the University, so far. Even when compared with the only other Central University located in South viz. the Non-Affiliating Hyderabad University, Pondicherry University, though Is an affiliating University, has far less built-up area and receives much less development grants, which are seriously hampering its growth. The University is in dire need of additional funds (i) to meet its basic needs to provide the minimum basic infrastructure at par with other Central Universities and (ii) to cater to its growth and development as a Centre of Excellence in emerging areas of Science & Technology in this region. The estimated cost of infrastructure development for the University is Rs. 195 crores and this may kindly be sanctioned by the Government of India in the light of its efforts to promote Higher Education in India.